Leicester,
March 20/68.

Dear Cousin S.

I have been wanting to write to you, not for days only but for several weeks, – and last Sunday, hearing that you had lately been pretty ill, I resolved to write that day if possible; but I was soon called away from the house, and I had not a moment fairly to myself till nearly 11 p.m., & then I was too tired. The next morning, Sarah & I came up here, – & incessant occupation has followed us since then. We have not come to remain, yet. We expect to return here about the middle of April. – My mother has been waiting till I sh^d. write you, to return the accompanying papers to you, which you kindly sent her, – & she does so, with her thanks. Mr. Goddard is very prompt to keep us informed of these matters.

I learned of your illness from Mr. Mills of your city, when I went to hear last Sunday morn^g, at ~~Fraternity~~ Hall.

He gave us an excellent discourse — well-thought out, carefully arranged, forcibly & clearly expressed, modestly & quietly delivered. I spoke with him afterwards, & he told me you were "much better" now; — I said I had not heard of ~~it~~ any illness of yrs. recently; & he said you had been quite poorly, the trouble originating in your lameness. It was satisfactory to hear you were <u>much better</u>, & able to ride out; & we shall be glad at an early day to get more particulars, & I hope you will continue decidedly to improve in health.

We read your successive articles in the "Register" with much interest. Those on Dr. Channing were good — very good, I thought. The State House interviews were well-touched; & I am particularly glad at the re-production of what Mr. George Bond said. It was very honorable to him, & will mightily help to keep George Lunt in his proper place. Especially as Mrs. Bond, senior, has

MS. B.1.6 V.10 P.50

very recently died, – & so attention somewhat unusually turned to the family, it is a pleasant circumstance to have her husband's character & memory so favorably presented. I will mention two incidents in connexion with yr. articles:

Some 5 or 6 weeks ago I met Rev. Dr. Neale, pastor of Baptist Church (First, I think). After talking awhile on other matters, he asked me what connexion of mine was the writer of the A. S. articles in the "Register". I told him. I think he said he had had some acquaintance with you. I asked him what he thought of the articles. Oh, he said, I like them much; I have read every one of them; I go regularly to read them in the "Register" as they come out; &c. He highly commended their fidelity & good spirit, & spoke of them as of much value, & as worthy of publication in a more enduring & accessible form. His approval of them was very cordial & decided.

Within a fortnight I was at Mr. J. Ingersoll Bowditch's office; and in

MS. B.1.6 V.10 P.50

course of conversation he referred to
your articles in the "Register". He
had been lately reading these on the
State House interviews, and laughed
with real enjoyment as he recurred to
the scenes you had described, and some previous ones where Dr. Young had been involved. But,
said he, he ought to give us names
pretty freely; where men took a public
stand in opposition to freedom, &c. it ought
to be told, &c. &c. I dare say he alluded
to Alexr. Young, of whose course he knew
a great deal; perhaps to Andrew
Bigelow, George Putnam, & others, also.
He was very decided in his judgment
that the names ought to be given; and
I told him I would let you know what
he said, particularly as it coincided
with what I had already rather urged upon
you. Mr. B. said, of his own accord, these papers ought to be republished in pamphlet or book form.

I have previously told you of
others, from time to time, who have spoken to
me of yr. articles in similar terms with
the foregoing, & desired them to be repro-
duced in book form. Among these I now
particularly recal Edwd. W. Kinsley, a prominent
merchant of Boston, & active Republican.

Ms.B.1.6 v.10.p.50

2

Now, with the frankness of a friend, an Abolitionist, (and a Goddard & May rolled into one,) I am going to tell you of something I cannot think right or consistent in your action. — When, some weeks ago, an Antislavery lady asked me why Rev. S. J. May had given his money to the support of the "Standard", at the recent A. S. Festival in Boston, my first reply was that she must be mistaken, — I thought you could not have done so, &c. and afterward said, "if so, only under protest against the Standard's violation of the first principle of all honest discussion & reform, — "hear both sides", & the right of assailed parties to defend themselves. The lady said she was not mistaken as to the fact of seeing your name on the list of donors at ~~than~~ ~~meeting~~ the late A. S. Festival in Boston.

I took an early opp^o. to look at the Standard, and saw it for myself. Still more, I saw, — with more pain than surprise that W. Phillips, in a leading article, had paraded your name, in capitals, with

MS. B.1.6 V.10 P.50

Gerrit Smith's & others, as giving your sanction and support to the "Standard". The purpose of that was obvious, and it is no wonder that he jumped at that chance.

But, having by me your letters, in which you expressed your indignation toward the Standard, in no measured terms, — not so much for its shameful treatment of me personally, (for that is clearly a secondary matter,) — but for its violation of fair dealing & honorable conduct, — I could not explain, or understand, the support you had given to the "Standard", by a donation of money, without protest or explanation. I have accordingly felt that an injury has been done by you, both to principles & to friends — though (I am perfectly sure) not with the remotest thought of such a thing on your part; — and I could not reconcile your letters, & your course in that particular. As the fund, then & there raised, was distinctly declared to be in support of the Standard, there could,

seemingly, be no doubt in anybody's mind of what you meant to do.

I had written, — quite reluctantly it was on my part, but I felt it was a <u>duty</u> I owed myself, and my character as a Trustee, — I had written a temperate, a respectful, letter to the "Standard", in defence & vindication of my action as a Trustee of Francis Jackson. It was, in every way, a suitable letter for publication in the <u>Standard</u>, where I had been with others called by name, and involved in a charge of <u>robbing</u> & <u>defrauding</u> the Amn. Anti-Slavery Society of Mr. Jackson's bequest. It was written when Mr. ~~Gar~~ Garrison's absence in Europe made it impossible for him to reply in defence of himself. — I had had the good fortune to be able to <u>show you</u> my letter, to have you read it carefully to get your criticisms upon it, & to receive your hearty commendation of it, and your emphatic judgment that it

was just the explanation that was needed
& that ought to appear in the "Standard."
It did not appear, as you know; being
deliberately refused an insertion by Mr
Phillips himself. Had the Editor of the
New York Herald, or New York Observer
done that very thing, we should have been
apt to say it was in character. I
do not see that it was any more
honorable, or any more to be
overlooked and pardoned, when
done by Wendell Phillips, than when
done by the Editors of the Herald
or Observer.

— Now I have stated to you my difference
with you, frankly. I am sure you will say,
I hope you will also say and feel, that I have
said no more than I properly, respectfully
& lovingly might. Such has been my wish
& aim, and I don't think I can have strayed
from them. If I have given you any offence
please tell me wherein. I shall be much more
swift to retract any wrong word I may have
said to you, than even you can be to desire I
should. I know you won't blame me for
telling you honestly my thought and feeling.

— I hope the King's Chapel Wardens have written
all that was right & proper to you about the portrait.
They appear to be all right, so far as I can tell from
Mr Russell's views of the case. Aff'ly Yours, Saml. May Jr

Ms. B.1.6 v.10 p.50
Ms. B.1.6 v.10 p.50